



EPA TO TEST FOR LEAD AT RARITAN BAY SLAG SITE IN RARITAN BAY

Community Notice

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QUESTIONS? Please Contact

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DEFINITIONS:

Removal Action - a short-term action taken under the Superfund Program to address a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance that may present an imminent and substantial danger to the public health or welfare, or the environment.

Slag - a by-product of processing rocks to extract minerals such as lead.

EPA will be evaluating the Raritan Bay Slag site for a Superfund removal action. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) originally requested that EPA evaluate the Laurence Harbor Seawall for such an action. During the process of conducting a removal assessment at the seawall, another potential area of concern of similar material was identified nearby on the Sayreville waterfront, directly adjacent to the Laurence Harbor beaches. As a result of this finding, these areas will be viewed together.

The Laurence Harbor Seawall is located in the Laurence Harbor section of Old Bridge, Middlesex County, New Jersey along the Raritan Bay. Slag was discovered as part of the seawall. Elevated levels of lead, antimony, arsenic and copper have been identified by NJDEP along the seawall near the slag. Samples collected from the adjoining beach and the park were evaluated by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. One area of concern was identified at the edge of the beach and the seawall. Old Bridge Township has placed a temporary "snow" fence in this area and posted "Keep-off" signs in the park along the split rail fence that borders the edge of the seawall. Letters were forwarded to the residents of Laurence Harbor last year to advise the residents of the NJDEP's findings.

The removal assessment, which includes the gathering of historical information and available data, is ongoing. The assessment will include the collection of soil, sediment, water, biological and waste samples along the seawall, jetty and the beaches situated near these two locations.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND INFO:

The Raritan Bay Slag site is located in the Laurence Harbor section of Old Bridge and in Sayreville along the Raritan Bay. The portion of the site that is in Laurence Harbor is part of what is now called Old Bridge Waterfront Park. Lead slag, reportedly in the form of blast furnace pot bottoms, was deposited along the beachfront in late 1960s and early 1970s. The area of concern spans approximately 2,500 feet and begins just west of Margaret's Creek and ends at the first beach in Laurence Harbor, just east of the easternmost jetty. The other portion of the site that is in Sayreville is located on, and adjacent to, a jetty along the Cheesequake Creek inlet. The slag on the jetty is similar in appearance to that which is present on the seawall. Crushed battery casings are also evident on the jetty. The Raritan Bay Slag Site is part of a larger effort which includes the area around Margaret's Creek, an area in which the NJDEP discovered lead-contaminated material. The NJDEP is addressing the area around Margaret's Creek.